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BLACKROD

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL  
REPORT

OF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the Year Ending 31st December, 1915.

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**J. W. UNSWORTH, M.O.H.**

*Horwich Publishing Co.*



# **Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health**

## **For 1915**

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Blackrod  
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report upon the health and sanitary condition of your district for the year 1915, together with the usual analyses of births, deaths, infectious diseases, etc., in Tables I—IV.

**BIRTH-RATE.**—During 1915 there have been registered in the district 96 births (46 boys and 50 girls). This gives a birth-rate of 25.6 per 1,000 of population. The average number of births for past 5 years is 101.8. The average rate is 25.75. We, therefore, have quite a good number this year.

**DEATH-RATE.**—We have had 46 deaths registered in the district, giving a death-rate of 12.29 per 1,000 of population. Two of these are non-resident, and therefore belong to another district, but we have 8 deaths of Blackrod residents which have occurred outside, making our real number 52, and the death-rate 13.9. This is rather higher than last year, which was 11.95. The average number of deaths for the past 5 years is 52.2, and average rate is 13.36.

There are 12 deaths under 1 year of age, out of 96 births, giving a rate of 125 per 1,000 births. This is a slight increase on last year's number, which was 111.1, 10 deaths out of 90 births. We have 11 deaths between the ages of 1 and 5, 3 between 5 and 15, 2 between 15 and 25, 6 between 25 and 45, and 18 over 45 years of age.

The causes of death are tabulated as follows:—

Zymotic Diseases.....	{	Scarlet Fever	...	2
		Diphtheria	...	1
		Diarrhœa & Enteritis	...	4
		Phthisis	...	1
	Other Tuberculous Disease	..	1	
Non-Tuberculous Disease of Lungs	{	Bronchitis	...	3
		Pneumonia	...	11
	Whooping Cough	..	1	
	Cancer	...	1	
	Rheumatic Fever	...	1	
	Meningitis	...	4	
	Organic Heart Disease	...	3	
	Nephritis	...	2	
	Congenital Debility	...	6	
	Violent Deaths	..	2	
	Other Defined Diseases	...	9	
Total				52

**ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE.**—This year there are 7 deaths from Zymotic Disease, viz.: Scarlet Fever 2, Diphtheria 1, and Enteritis 4. This gives a rate of 1.78, which is a great increase on last year, when we had only 2 cases, giving a rate of .49.

**INFANT MORTALITY.**—We have had 12 deaths of infants under 1 year of age, out of 96 births, giving a rate of 125 per 1,000 of births.

**CAUSES OF INFANTS' DEATHS:—**

Meningitis	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	1
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	2
Enteritis	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth	...	...	...	2
Debility	...	...	...	4
Other Causes	...	...	...	1
Total				12

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—During the year 65 cases of infectious disease were notified, viz.:—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	2
Erysipelas	...	...	...	4
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	45
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	2
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	6
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	4
Total				65

This number is very high, more than twice last year's, which was 30. There was an epidemic of Scarlet Fever in an adjoining district, which afterwards spread to ours, and towards the end of the year the hospital was mostly closed, being too full to admit any patient. This, of course, made isolation difficult, and many cases occurred in houses which might have been prevented if the hospital had not been full. The epidemic seemed to start here in October, five cases occurring that month, 17 in November, and 10 in December, making 32 cases of Scarlet Fever in the three months out of 45 during the whole year. These started here just when the epidemic was at its height in Horwich and Westhoughton, and the hospital was quite full. I did not then close the schools, because, since the cases were being treated at home and isolation was almost impossible, I believed that the advantage was questionable. 27 cases of Scarlet Fever were treated in hospital during the year, and two cases of Typhoid.

In 1906 there were 17 cases of infectious disease.

„ 1907	„	28	„	„
„ 1908	„	12	„	„
„ 1909	„	38	„	„
„ 1910	„	24	„	„
„ 1911	„	16	„	„

In 1912 there were 40 cases of infectious disease.

„ 1913	„	48	„	„
„ 1914	„	30	„	„
„ 1915	„	65	„	„

Average for last 10 years, 31.8.

SANITARY CONDITION OF DISTRICT.—This is fairly satisfactory, and generally in accordance with existing bye-laws. The only new property erected during the year was the new Ridgway Arms Hotel. Extensive alterations have been made to various properties, viz.:—The Black Horse Hotel, and Anderton House. The Cock Tavern and the Oddfellows' Arms were made into cottages. 29 water closets have been installed, but conversions have not been pressed owing to a scarcity of water.

The conveniences in the township now are 375 privies, 356 flush water closets, 38 waste water closets, 23 pails, 265 middens, 10 dry pits, 24 wood bins, and 336 metal bins.

Twenty-four notices have been served during the year:—

Dangerous Buildings	...	...	4
Stopped W.C's	...	...	3
Unsatisfactory Closets	...	...	7
Unsatisfactory Shippons	...	...	10

There are now 862 houses in the township.

There have been 58 houses inspected under the Housing Acts. Under existing conditions few notices have been sent out regarding defects. They are as follows:—

Insufficient Ventilation	...	...	1
Defective Roof	...	...	1
General Defects	...	...	29
Dampness	...	...	2

One house was closed as unfit for habitation.

Improvements in the paving of backyards have taken place, and owners of other properties have purchased setts, with the intention of carrying out the work during the current year. Notable improvements have been carried out at 1, 3, and 5, Little Scotland, where back doors have been put and separate yards made. Back doors have also been put at 2, 4, and 6, Folds, and greatly improved sanitary arrangements made. Several other blocks are expected to be in the contractors' hands shortly. These include several back-to-back houses.

INSPECTION OF WORKSHOPS.—Collieries 4, Bleachworks 4, Weaving Sheds 4, and other small workshops 11. Total 23.

Smoke Observations have been taken on 10 occasions, and there was no need to complain.

SCAVENGING RETURNS.—1,380 ashpits and 15,746 bins have been emptied during the year.

The Sewage Effluent still continues to be satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLY.—This is excellent in character, and has been sufficient for our needs. The plan for the construction of a new reservoir which was being considered last year has, of course, been abandoned for the present.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—During the year cowsheds at the following farms have received attention, viz.: Ackers', Longworth's, Lee Fold, Highfield, and Crowshaw. Promises have been made by owners of other farms, which we hope will be carried out during the summer.

BAKEHOUSES AND SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—We have no public bakehouses or slaughter houses, but the private ones are regularly inspected, and are satisfactory.

THE WORKSHOPS are all in a satisfactory condition.

LODGING HOUSES AND OBNOXIOUS TRADES.—There are no ordinary lodging houses in the district, and no obnoxious trades are carried on.

FOOD SUPPLY.—Satisfactory throughout the year.

GENERAL HEALTH.—The general health has not been as good as usual. There has been a good deal of infectious disease throughout the year, especially in the last quarter, as I have before mentioned, when we had a Scarlet Fever epidemic. There was also a slight epidemic of Measles, which, fortunately, did not last long. Influenza has been prevalent during the year, but, in spite of all this the death-rate only equals the average for the past 5 years.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

**J. W. UNSWORTH, M.O.H.**



TABLE 1.—VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1915, AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

## BLACKROD URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Year	Population estimated to middle of each Year	BIRTHS.		Total Deaths Registered in the District		Transferable Deaths of Non- residents not registered		Deaths belonging to the District. Under 1 year of age.		Rate per 1,000 Nett	
		Un. corrected Number	Nett Number	Number	Rate	in the District	in the District	Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett	Number	Rate
1910 ...	4,000	...	95	...	23.75	...	...	7	73.6	42	10.5
1911 ...	3,896	...	104	...	26.6	...	...	16	153.84	54	13.8
1912 ...	3,896	...	108	...	27.7	...	...	12	111.1	52	13.3
1913 ...	3,957	111	112	53	28.3	—	2	20	178.5	55	13.89
1914 ...	4,014	—	90	43	22.42	1	6	10	111.1	48	11.95
1915 ...	3,741	...	96	46	25.6	2	8	12	125	52	13.9

Area of District in acres (land and inland water) 2,388.

Total of population at all ages, 3,741 (since war.)

Total families or separate occupiers, 858.  
(At Census, 1911).

TABLE II. — CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING  
THE YEAR 1915.

*BLACKROD URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.*

		No. of Cases Notified.							Total Cases removed to Hospital.	
Notifiable Disease.	At all Ages	At Ages—Years.								
		Under 1	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 upwards.		
Diphtheria	...	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	..	4	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...
Scarlet fever	...	45	1	12	22	4	6	...	...	27
Enteric Fever	..	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
Puerperal Fever	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis		1	...	...	1	...	..	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis		6	...	...	...	3	3	...	..	...
Other forms of     ,,		4	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	...	65	1	14	27	9	12	2	...	29

Isolation Hospital (Joint), Fall Birch, Horwich.

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING YEAR 1915.  
FOR THE URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in or belonging to whole district at subjoined ages.								
	All Ages	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Scarlet Fever ...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	1	..	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pul. Tuber.)	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Other Tuber. Diseases	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Rheumatic Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Meningitis ...	4	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Bronchitis ...	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	11	1	...	3	1	1	1	2	2
Diarrhœa & Enteritis	4	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Nephritis & Bright's Disease ...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ...	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Violent Deaths, excluding suicides..	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Other Defined Disea's	9	1	...	...	...	1	1	1	5
Totals ...	52	12	4	7	3	2	6	6	12

SUB-ENTRIES—Cerebro-spinal Meningitis (5 and under 15 years) 1.  
Deaths—Certified, 52 ; Uncertified, 0.

TABLE IV. INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1915.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

## BLACKROD URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	2-3 weeks	Total under 4 weeks.	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total deaths under one Year
All Causes:—								
Certified	3	2	5	3	...	1	2	12
Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2
Enteritis	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Pre-mature Birth	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	1	2	3	...	1	...	...	4
Other Causes	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Totals	3	—	5	3	1	1	2	12

Nett Births in the year, legitimate, 93; illegitimate, 3.

Nett Deaths in the year of legitimate infants, 12; illegitimate infants, 0.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR 1915,

FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF BLACKROD.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES, AND HOMEWORK

1.—INSPECTION.

*Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.*

Premises.	Inspections.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	8
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	11
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report	4
Total ... ..	23

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.—None.

3.—HOME WORK.—None.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS

	Number.
Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year	
Huyton Bleachworks ... ..	1
Woods' and Son's Colliery ... ..	1
Blackrod Weaving Shed ... ..	1
Arley Brick Co. ... ..	1
Cloggers ... ..	2
Shoemakers ... ..	1
Blacksmiths ... ..	1
Total number of workshops on Register ...	8

5.—OTHER MATTERS.—None.

